(c) Yes, Sir. Reports have been received from all the States/UTs. except Punjab, Delhi, Goa States and UT of Lakshadweep.

(d) Government of Punjab, Delhi, Goa and UT of Lakshadweep have not completed the process of making necessary preparations for implementing the TPDS.

(e) Under the scheme Panchayats and Nagarpalikas have been given the responsibility for supervising and overseeing the work of Fair Price Shops. Each Fair Price Shop will display the details of the authority to which the card holder can report grievances. States/UTs have constituted Vigilance Committees, drawn up Inspection Schedules and taken steps for greater transparency.

(f) About 586.64 lakh BPL families will be benefited under the scheme.

Threat to CBI Personnel

984. PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of the CBI investigation fodder scam have been threatened;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken steps to provide/ensure adequate security and safety to CBI officials dealing with sensitive scams; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Programme on Integrated Pest Management

985. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the National Programme on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was launched;

(b) the details of achievement made and the allocation of fund provided so far;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken any survey to ascertain the benefits of the programme being provided to the farmers under the said programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme in the country was initiated in the year 1981. The Government of India adopted IPM as main strategy in the crop production programmes since 1985. However, the National IPM Programme was launched in the year 1994-95 in collaboration with the State Deptt. of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the State Agricultural Universities.

(b) Under the National IPM Programme, the main thrust has been given to pest-surveillance and monitoring, promotion of bio-control methods and Human Resource Development through field trainings and demonstrations. Since 1994-95 to 1996-97, 812 mater trainers, 21,145 Agriculture Extension Officers and 1,40,068 farmers have been trained in IPM through 4692 Farmer's Field Schools (FFSs) in rice, cotton, vegetable, oilseeds and pulse crops. During the 8th Plan period, the Government has allocated Rs. 45 crores for a Central Sector Scheme "Central IPM Centres". Besides, an allocation of Rs. 15.00 crores was made as Grants-in-aid to help the States to strengthen their Biocontrol Laboratories during the 8th Plan period. On the basis of progress made by the State Governments, an amount of Rs. 10.68 crores has been provided to the States under the Scheme.

(c) to (e) Sample studies and assessment indicate that IPM programme is very cost-effective and eco-friendly. The farmers are very receptive and responsive to its adoption.

Welfare Schemes

986. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :
SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI B.L SHANKAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes launched by the Government for the upliftment of Weaker Sections of the country during the Eighth Plan;

(b) the number of persons from weaker section benefited therefrom during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the guidelines issued for the sanction of funds under various schemes;

(d) the funds allocated for these schemes for 1997-98, State-wise; and

(e) the amount actually released to State Governments till date for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The details of schemes launched by the Ministry of Welfare for the upliftment of Weaker Sections of the country during the Eighth Plan is given in the Statement I attached.

(b) The number of persons from Weaker Sections benefited therefrom during the Eighth Plan, State-wise is given in the Statement II attached.

(c) Funds are sanctioned as per the norms laid down for various schemes.

(d) The funds under these schemes are not allocated State-wise. However, Statement III regarding Scheme-wise allocation for 1997-98 is attached.

(e) Details regarding actual release of amount are at Statement IV attached.

Statement I

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Year of introduction
1.	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas for ST Girls and Boys	1992-93
2.	Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for ST Girls	1993-94
3.	Grant in aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations	1992-93
4.	Village Grain Banks for Drought Prone Areas (Excluding Assam)	1996-97
5.	Pre Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections	1992-93
6.	Special Educational Development programme for Scheduled Caste Girls belonging to Very Low Literacy Levels	1996-97

Statement II

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of Beneficiaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1276
2.	Assam	44
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	02
4.	Bihar	449
5.	Gujarat	418
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	261
7.	Karnataka	161
8.	Kerala	313
9.	Madhya Pradesh	876
10.	Maharashtra	398
11.	Manipur	209
12.	Mizoram	01
13.	Meghalaya	02
14.	Orissa	346
15.	Rajasthan	357
16.	Tamil Nadu	312
17.	Tripura	04
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2235
19.	West Bengal	03
20.	Delhi	2112
21.	Daman & Diu	01

Statement III

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Allocation for 1997-98 (Rupees in Crores)
1.	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas for ST girls and boys	3.75
2.	Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for ST Girls	4.00
3.	Grant in aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations.	10.00
4.	Village Grain Banks for Drought Prone Areas (Excluding Assam)	2.00
5.	Pre Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections	2.50
6.	Special Educational Development Programme for SC Girls belonging to Very Low Literacy Levels	3.80

Statement IV

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Status of release as on date
1.	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas for ST Girls and Boys	Rs. 0.86 crores has been released in the State of Gujarat. No release has been made in other States during 1997-98.
2.	Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for ST Girls	It is released to NGOs, not to State Governments.
3.	Grant in Aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations	NIL
4.	Village Grain Banks for Drought Prone Areas (Excluding Assam)	NIL
5.	Pre Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections	It is released to NGOs, not to State Governments.
6.	Special Educational Development Programme for SC Girls belonging to Very Low Literacy Levels	NIL

Prices of Medicines

987. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep hike in the prices of medicines during the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to boost the production of medicines in the Country; and

(d) whether the prices of life saving drugs are likely to come down as a result of the efforts made by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Like in other commodities, some price increase in the case of medicines is inevitable. However studies conducted from time to time do not indicate any general abnormal price increase in the case of medicines in recent times. The Wholesale Price Index (1981-82 = 100) has shown an increase of 1.69% for Drugs and Medicines vis-a-vis 5.91% for All Commodities during the period April '96 to March '97.

(b) General analysis of the causes of high prices of medicines, both under and outside price control, reveal the following as the prime factors viz. increase in the prices of bulk drugs, excipients (e.g. alcohol, sugar, soivent, etc.), cost of packaging, fluctuations in foreign exchange rate (for imported items), changes in excise duty, hike in Maximum Allowable Post-manufacturing Expenses (MAPE), increase in trade margin in case of decontrolled items etc.

(c) Steps taken to boost production of medicines, inter-alia, are:—

(i) Abolition of industrial licensing.

(ii) Emphasis on Research & Development.

(iii) Simplification of pricing system.

(iv) Incentives for production from basic stage.

(d) With the ushering in of era of liberalisation, through free imports, lower duty rates, doing away with industrial licensing, encouraging R & D and simplified price control system, it is expected that increasec